The rate at which British vessels were sunk by enemy action showed a steady decline in 1918 from the appalling height which it had reached in the spring of 1917. The figures of our total tonnage losses from this cause during the War years are as follows :—

Statistics of our shipping losses	*Tear.*	*Gross Tonnage of British Vessels sunk by enemy action,*
	1914....	252,738
	1915.....	885,471
	1916.....	1,231,867
	1917	3,660,054
	1918	1,632,228

The way in which the sinkings were reduced is shown more clearly in the month-by-month totals for 1917 and 1918 :—

1919	January	*53>&99 grosstons sunk
	February	310,868 „ „ „
	March	352,344 „ „ „
	April	526,447 „ „ „
	May	345,293 „ „ „
	June	398,773 „ „ „
	July	359,539 „ „ „
	August	331,37° „ „ „
	September	186,647 „ „ „
	October	261,873 „ „ „
	November	175^94 „ „ „
	December	257,807 „ „ „
1920	January	i73>387 „ „ „
	February	213,045 „ „ „
	March	199,426 „ „ „
	April	214,426 „ „ „